

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep Harry Mitchell [took to the floor of the House of Representatives today](#) to urge adoption of a bill to block the automatic pay raise members of Congress are set to receive in Fiscal Year 2011, which begins October 1, 2010.

H.R. 4255, the Stop the Automatic Pay Raise for Members of Congress in FY2011 Act, was introduced by Reps. Mitchell and Ron Paul (R-TX) late last week.

“With unemployment high and so many families struggling to make ends meet, we believe that it would be wrong for Congress to now raise its own pay in Fiscal Year 2011,” Mitchell said on the House floor. “Right now we need our focus to be on getting people back to work, shoring up the economy, and keeping our families and communities safe, not on giving ourselves a pay raise.”

[View full floor speech here](#)

In 1989, Congress approved a process that provides lawmakers with an automatic pay raise every January unless they vote specifically to reject the raise.

Earlier this year, Mitchell and Paul were successful in blocking the FY 2010 pay raise after introducing similar legislation, H.R. 156, which garnered 118 cosponsors. As a result, members of Congress did not receive an anticipated \$4,700 raise in 2009, which has saved taxpayers approximately \$2.5 million. [Source: [The Hill](#), February 24, 2009]

In 2008, Mitchell and Paul also introduced legislation to block the FY 2009 pay raise, which, despite gaining 34 bipartisan cosponsors, did not reach the floor of the House for a vote.

In 2007, Mitchell offered a similar bill to block the FY2008 pay raise, which attracted 29 co-sponsors. Mitchell took office in 2007.

When Mitchell received pay raises in 2008 and 2009, he donated those pay raises to Arizona charities. [Source: [East Valley Tribune](#), April 16, 2009]

The precise amount of the FY2011, which begins October 1, 2010, automatic pay raise has yet to be determined.

Below is the text of Congressman Mitchell's Speech on the House floor:

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

9:20 a.m. EST

Madam Speaker, my colleague Dr. Ron Paul and I, have once again introduced legislation to stop Members of Congress from receiving the next scheduled automatic pay raise.

Earlier this year we introduced legislation to block the Fiscal Year 2010 pay raise, and were joined by a bipartisan coalition of more than 100 of our colleagues in the process. Thanks to their help, as well as that of our Leadership, the Fiscal Year 2010 pay raise was blocked.

With unemployment so high and so many families struggling to make ends meet, we believe that it would be wrong for Congress to now raise its own pay in Fiscal Year 2011.

Right now we need our focus to be on getting people back to work, shoring up the economy, and keeping our families and communities safe -- not on giving ourselves a pay raise.

The American people are not getting a raise. Neither should Congress.

I encourage my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to do the same, and join me and Dr. Ron Paul in stopping the next automatic pay raise from taking effect by supporting H.R. 4255,

the Stop the Automatic Pay Raise for Members of Congress in Fiscal Year 2011 Act.

And I yield back my time.